



# MAYOR AND COUNCIL AGENDA

NO. 2

DEPT.:

CONTACT: Sally Sternbach

DATE PREPARED: 4/5/05

FOR MEETING OF: 4/11/05

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**SUBJECT:** Rockville Library Business Information Center

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

A letter of support from the Mayor and Council to Harriett Henderson, Director of the Montgomery County Libraries, regarding the continuation of the Business Information Center as a specialty collection in the new Rockville Regional Library on Rockville's Town Square and for the placement of the collection in a distinct, highly visible location in the building with easy access to the business resource librarian.

The Business Information Center offers materials and services for individuals and organizations to make informed business, investment, and economic decisions. It has an extensive collection of co-located business directories and source books, and provides access to a number of online databases and web links. The collection has been housed at the Rockville Library since 1992 and serves a large number of small business owners and entrepreneurs. The Library also has a specially trained business resource librarian on staff, Suzanne Carbone, who is an equally important asset and is critical to the success of the Business Information Center. She is currently completing the development of a new Business Information Portal to give businesspeople web access to much better organized and more complete information, including a live feed for business news.

Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI) refers people regularly to Ms. Carbone and the Business Information Center. These assets are part of what brands Rockville as a center for business, innovation and collaboration. REDI believes that it is very important that the new Rockville Regional Library celebrates and continues this tradition.

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**DISCUSSION:**

**Options Considered:**

**Fiscal Impact:**

**Change in Law or Policy:**

**Boards and Commissions Review:**

**Next Steps:** Send letter to Harriett Henderson

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**PREPARED BY:** Sally Sternbach, Executive Director of Rockville Economic Development, Inc.

*Sally Sternbach/eff*

**APPROVED BY:**

*Sally*

**DATE:** *7/28/05*

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**LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:** Letter to Harriett Henderson drafted by Sally Sternbach

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DRAFT

April 11, 2005

Harriet Henderson, Director  
Montgomery County Public Libraries  
99 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Ms. Henderson:

The Mayor and Council of Rockville are excited about the plans for the new regional Rockville library as a key component of Rockville's redeveloped downtown. We also want to express our particular interest in the continuation of the Business Information Center as a specialty collection in the new library, and for the placement of the collection in a distinct, highly visible location in the building with easy access to the business resource librarian.

The Business Information Center offers materials and services to help individuals and organizations make informed business, investment, and economic decisions. The collection has been housed at the Rockville Library since 1992 and serves a large number of small business owners and entrepreneurs. The collection and the specially trained business resource librarian, Suzanne Carbone, are important assets that help brand Rockville as a center for business, innovation and collaboration. We urge you to keep this resource intact, so that it may continue to effectively serve the business community for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Larry Giammo  
Mayor

Robert E. Dorsey  
Councilmember

John F. Hall, Jr.  
Councilmember

Susan R. Hoffmann  
Councilmember

Anne M. Robbins  
Councilmember

cc: County Executive Douglas M. Duncan  
David Edgerley, Director of the Montgomery County Office of Economic  
Development  
Dan Bevin, Regional Librarian  
Sally Sternbach, Executive Director of Rockville Economic Development, Inc.